Just Where Were You On December 31, 1899?

Local Rialto Was Crowded and Gay, Also Snowy and Cold That Night By Jay Carmody

Humanity last night made a sharp left turn into the last half of the 20th century, its tires screeching and its eyes agleam with a blend of bewilderment and hope.

That was all right with the drama department which had chosen not to be there. It had gone back 50 years when Washington and the world were making what they thought was a right turn into the first half of the century.

New Year's Day came on Monday that January 1, 1900. There was snow on the ground, the Eastern Branch was frozen and the temperature was 3 degrees above zero, but the town turned out for entertainment. A century was turning and a thing like that has to be celebrated. Theatrical producers saw to it that these restless ones had a place to go-to theaters and halls which, with two exceptions, have long since gone.

Entertainment Was Alive. Entertainment was "live" then, most of it concentrated in the

area of Pennsylvania avenue from Seventh to Fifteenth streets, but there was enough of it to make the populace gay and to keep a flock of critics busy. The movies made a single furtive appearance in The Star's amusement page, in the New Grand's program which offered "polite vaudeville and the moving pictures." No titles, no stars, just pictures that moved. The biggest show in town that night was "The Elder Miss

Blossom," with "Mr. and Mrs. Kendell." This was where the smart set gathered, a whole theater full of the smart set just as the Lunts draw the grandchildren with the same names today. Or would if the Lunts, not Rosalind Russell on celluloid, were playing the E

It was good to see Mr. and Mrs. Kendall in "The Elder Miss Blossom," for while The Star's critic could not rhapsodize over the play, he could write happily that "there is an air of comfort and security about a Kendall performance" which surely is something that few Washingtonians got out of last night.

"Princess Chie" Had a Cold. The flibberty-gibbets that night 50 years ago found their

dramatic lure in a new musical, "Princess Chic," at the Lafayette, which later became the Belasco and after that a warehouse, and which again promises to become a theater in 1950.

The "Princess Chic" was a new and shining thing, as chic princesses very well should be, but this reviewer's predecessor found it in a quite unfinished state. In words that still constitute the liveliest cliche in the vocabulary of criticism, he reported it still "needed work" before going on to Broadway.

His favorite player apparently was the soubrette (another eliche that has come down to this generation). With a touch of gentle compassion, he reported that the poor, pretty thing "had a cold but nevertheless sang soubrettishly and danced with care." This dancing with care might suggest a better attitude toward their work on the part of-but why bring that up?

It was the orchestra which took the pummeling that night in the critic's chiding observation that it "was by no means up to the mark.

The other legitimate play was William Gilette's "Secret Service'.' which was playing the Academy, Gillette was not here as star and the play was in its third season but a goodly audience saw it nevertheless. Whether it agreed with the billing as "the greatest American play ever written," is something the reviewer did not record. He was satisfied, however, that it was good enter-

Coming, "A Runaway Girl."

The Jeff De Angeles company was at the Columbia that night, the same Columbia that stands at Twelfth and F streets today. It was doing a musical, "The Jolly Musketeer," which was lively enough, but what Columbia fans really were looking forward to was the next week's attraction. That was Augustin Daly's "A Runaway Girl," a spicier item, which turned in a box office that showed a lively community spirit.

Burlesque, naturally, had a big night that eve of 1900. This was at the Bijou, where "a hot burlesque with 30 pretty girls and 10 witty comedians" was being advertised. Burlesque later got down to fewer clothes and fewer comedians, but it did capacity when the century turned and the customers went out into the snow feeling fit and frivolous.

Twentieth centurians (or whatever we are) who grew up hearing of vaudeville's death until television revived it, should be interested to read The Star's critic on the Grand Opera House that night: "That vaudeville is still growing in favor was strongly emphasized last night, etc." It also was being strongly emphasized the same night at Kernan's, the senior vaudeville house where Sam Devere's 10-act program was playing.

Prices? Oh, yes, prices! They ran from 25 cents to \$1.50 top in the legitimate houses, 25 to 50 cents for grade-A vaudeville, and for the single straight movie at Convention Hall—the Jeffries-Sharkey fight-from 25 cents to \$1.50.

This is how it was and who knows whether it was better or worse than now?

At any rate, a Happy New Half Century to every one!

Vocal Comeback

HOLLYWOOD. Here's a switch: Judith Ander-

While Miss Anderson isn't quite before Director George Stevens a novice at singing, it's been 25 was satisfied. years since she did any professional vocalizing. She once studied Clift's first film, "The Search." voice and in 1924 appeared as a Romance was a minor thread in singer in the play, "The Dove."

an adaptation of the Niven Busch

Educational Work

in educational Hollywood.

James Mason, for instance, now knows how to give a hypo to a Family Affair horse. A "Death on a Side Street" acene required the British actor to inject a medicant into an ailing nag.

called for a technical adviser. So, Marion Michael Morrison, formerone Joseph Suggs, a local veter- ly of Winterset, Iowa, and Jeaninarian, was put on the payroll for ette Morrison, once of Merced, three days to teach Mason the Calif. But you might know them fine point of wielding a hypoder- better as John Wayne and Janet

YOU CAN'T

HONEST MAI

CHEAT AN

EDGAR BERGEN

Out of Practice? HOLLYWOOD. Montgomery Clift has had an son, famed for her powerful dra- unusual career for a romantic matics, will warble "Alice Ben leading man. Perhaps that's why Bolt" and "The Trail to Mexico" he had to kiss Shelley Winters

> There was no love interest in the plot of "Red River," his sec-

smoothing. had trouble delivering exactly the Leo lot. kiss Director Stevens wanted for a scene in "A Place in the Sun." Only after extensive rehearsals is tabulated separately, Roy Rogers and shots from several angles did and Gene Autry waged a dingbe used in the film.

By the Associated Press

HOLLYWOOD. Both of the leads in "Jet Pilot" Mason, a stickler for realism, are named Morrison. They are







Hope Leads Money Stars For 1949

By Harold Heffernan

HOLLYWOOD. The Motion Picture Herald's annual tabulation of the biggest money-making stars of the year, released Friday, carries something of a surprise in the elevation of Bob Hope to No. 1 position over his arch rival and dearest enemy. Bing Crosby.

Crosby had corralled the honor or five consecutive years, although Hope, in a couple of previous ballotings, came very close to displacing him.

Others in the all-important list are Abbott and Costello—now un-Esther Williams, Humphrey Bogart and Clark Gable.

Hope's defeat of Crosby is attributed to the fact that even ing in Hollywood, says startling who seeks his learning." though he had only two releases Shelley Winters. support of Jane Russell, and "Sor- names the five most intelligent rowful Jones" were probably the men she has met in Hollywood. most successful movies of Hope's They are: Paramount is plotting a sequel. Bing's Bad Year.

to put it kindly, and certainly not able of." Court," a stodgy, costume musical, actor and studies hard at it." was saved from utter failure only 3. Marlon Brando, a recent by Bing's warbling.

have much nudge at the gate and better actor." "Top o' the Morning," his latest, 4. Charlie Chaplin. "Despite titled to your opinion." of the camera.

Bing's year was so bad from a artist."

Two Newcomers.

Two stars pop into the "moneymaking 10" limelight for the first time-John Wayne and Esther Williams. Wayne appeared in no fewer than seven starring pictures during the year and possibly gained his rating mainly by pure numerical strength. Esther's elevation offers proof to the theory that novelty pictures, featuring personable figures in the realm of sports and outdoor fields, can forge their way to commanding positions in the movies. Strictly an acting novice when she reported to MGM five years ago as a beautiful swimming and diving champ, Esther has scampered to a place among the glamor greats.

It is rather a strange commentary that a swimmer should lead the entire pack of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer stars, touted as the largest and most dynamic group in the 132 times, by press agent's tally, business. She placed two above the mighty Clark Gable, MGM's

only other performer to win a spot. In view of the fact that the Herald's ratings are drawn straight from the money tills of some 5,000 Miss Anderson will make her ond. In "The Heiress" he woodd American exhibitors, who annually vocal comeback in "The Furies," and lost a girl who frowned on participate in the voting, drastic

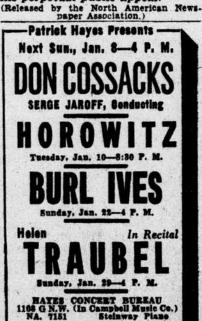
Possibly out of practice, Clift might be in order soon on the Duel on the Range.

In the Western division, which One learns something every day Only three of the 132 smacks will had only a few votes margin but enough to win-over his biggest hoss-opry rival. Following them came George "Gabby" Hayes, Tim Holt, William Elliott, Charles Starrett, Bill Boyd, Johnny Mack Brown, Smiley Burnette and Andy

The rating of today's king of television films, Hopalong Boyd, in seventh is an oddity. Of course, is explainable by Bill's absence from picture-making for the last three years. On television, where some 50 of his thrilling Westerns are being played and replayed, Bill is definitely the top Western actor. A man, in fact, who might defeat Milton Berle if they were ever pitted.

The Herald's 1949 poll is the 18th in that trade publication's history.

Clark Gable is the only star placing on that first list of moneymakers who is still packing them in today—a striking testimonial to his perpetual public appeal.





"Sorrowful Jones," ousted Bing Crosby this year from the top position in the Motion Picture Herald's annual list of leading money-making film stars. John Wayne (left) and Esther Williams (right) were 1949 newcomers to Hollywood's big 10.

of 10, following Hope and Crosby, are Abbott and Costello—now un-

Intelligent men are sadly lack- those with talent, but to any one

in 1949 to Crosby's three, Bob's Miss Winters, who is not as were offerings of sensational box- dull-witted as you might gather

career. The latter was so popular 1. George Stevens, who directed

to be tabbed with the better Crosby 2. Farley Granger, her fairly efforts in the past. "A Connecti- steady date. "He has extreme incut Yankee in King Arthur's tegrity for his job as a movie attended with other Hollywood Horsemen of the Apocalypse" hit

date. "He knows three or four "Hamlet" and Shelley was de- when "The Big Parade" teed off "The Emperor Waltz," liberally languages and constantly seeks fending it. applauded by the critics, didn't new knowledge-making himself a

never seemed to get anyplace- what his critics may say, he reeven when Crosby was in front mains a great humanitarian, a courageous man and a superb

sider him lucky to have grabbed selfishly imparts all his vast

Today's Saledules AMBASSADOR - "The Inspector General": 1, 3:05, 5:15, 7:25 and 9:40 p.m.

"Hasty Heart": 11:40 p.m. CAPITOL — "Adam's Rib": 12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9 and 11:45 p.m. Stage Shows: 2:40, 5:25, 8:10 and 11 p.m. COLUMBIA—"Ambush": 3:55, 5:55, 7:50, 9:50 and

11:45 p.m. DUPONT — "Germany Year Zero": 1:10, 2:55, 4:45, 6:30, 8:20 and 10:10 p.m.

KEITH'S — "The Outlaw": 1:30, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45 and 11:45 p.m. METROPOLITAN — "Port of

New York": 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50 and 9:50 p.m. "Montana": 11:10 p.m. LITTLE - "Never Give A Sucker An Even Break": 1:10, 3:50, 6:30 and 9:15

p.m. NATIONAL—"Tell it to the Judge": 1:20, 2:50, 4:25, 6, 7:35, 9:10 and 10:40 p.m. PALACE — "On the Town": 1:10, 3:15, 5:25, 7:30, 9:40

and 11:45 p.m. PIX — "Frankenstein Meets the Wolf Man": 1. 3:30,

5:55, 8:25, 10:50 p.m. and PLAYHOUSE - "All the King's Men": 1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:45 and 9:55 p.m.

TRANS-LUX — "Pirates of Capri": 1, 2:50, 4:45, 6:35, 8:30 and 10:20 p.m. WARNER — "The Inspector General": 1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:35, and 9:40 p.m. "Hasty Heart": 11:45 p.m.

ROSSELLINI AT HIS BEST YEAR ZERO STATE CONT AVE Case Parts from 1 Pm

EXTRA! "VIENNA CHOIRBOYS"



Trans-Lui





one of their own.

by both.

Joan Fontaine—a reconcilia-

For Douglas, a "Champion."

Coming Attractions

AMBASSADOR—"The Great

CAPITOL—"Intruder in the

Dust," with David Brian.

COLUMBIA-"Shadow of a

Doubt," with Joseph Cotton.

DUPONT-"Strangers in the

KEITH'S — "Bagdad," with

METROPOLITAN - "Back

LITTLE - "Rigoletto," with

NATIONAL—"There's a Girl

PALACE — "Battleground,"

PLAYHOUSE-"Tight Little

TRANS-LUX — "My Foolish

Island," with Basil Radford.

Heart," with Susan Hay-

with Bob

"The Great

in My Heart," with Lee

Street," with Charles Boyer,

starting Saturday.

House," with Raimu.

Maureen O'Hara.

starting Saturday.

with Van Johnson.

Tito Gobbi.

Bowman.

WARNER

Lover,"

Lover," with Bob Hope,

national — John Wayne, Gary Cooper, Cary Grant, Betty Grable, Is Rare in Hollywood Men

HOLLYWOOD. | the new generation-not only to

Avoid Serious Subjects. "Of course," she added quickly, office caliber. Both "Paleface," in from the roles she plays on the of the men I have met here. I and guns for "Battleground." The on an average of once a week. which he received the important screen, goes even further. She haven't met them all—yet. But Marines threw thousands of troops I'm working on that." The actress indicated that in-

telligence is as scarce as Florida her in "A Place in the Sun." "His grapefruit in Hollywood. intelligent approach to his work ashamed of seeming intelligent," "People here seem to be On the other hand, Crosby's brings better work from actors she said. "They avoid talking movies were made last year and three were of the mediocre brand, than they knew they were cap- about serious subjects, with the more are planned. result that the conversation is

superficial and shallow."

quality standpoint that many con- 5. Charles Laughton. "He un-

Shelley blew up. "Why, you Angles." the second-place spot in the Her- knowledge of the art of acting to cried, bursting into tears and flee- on the battlefields of Burma. ing the place.

"Funny-I get invited to more on the incident.

Invited Just Once.

to follow intellectual lines. "The studio sent out a brochure on my picture, 'South Sea Sinner," she said. "All that was visible on the cover was a picture from my shoulders to my thighs. "For this, I took all those dra-

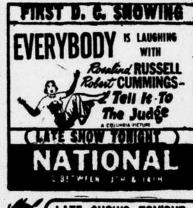
Problem Solved

matic lessons!"

By the Associated Press

HOLLYWOOD. The problem: How to keep 37 restless kids, ages 4 to 11, quiet. Producer Robert Cohn was shooting a dramatic scene in a hospital isolation ward where the children were patients. They were co-operative during takes, but as soon as the camera stopped the clamor began and adult actors FINAL FEATURE 11:45 P.M. couldn't hear themselves rehearse. The solution: Cohn set up a

projector at the rear of the stage and ran off silent cartoons. The kids were quietly spellbound while the grownups finished rehearsing









War Picture Cycle Gets Under Way

the box office while memories of riage with Esperanza . . . Rosalind period dresses, period.

Then last year a couple of studios tested the market with 'Command Decision" and "Home of the Brave." When these films health for wife Lillian, who has hope he has found her in Lady drew crowds the race was on. Now, been a semi-invalid for the past Sylvia Stanley. . . . five and a half years ahead of 10 years. . . . Kirk Douglas and schedule, the screen is refreshing another "Champion" and another old war memories with a spate of appraisal of his broken marriage films about fighting men.

The armed services, each after before his big success. They have suave polish, unless it's Walter public prestige, bent over back- two children. ward to help studios make films My wish for Abbott and Cosabout their heroes. The Navy sup- tello is that they would stop wish for anything at this low plied ships and planes for "Task changing their respective home point in her career. I wish she'd "these are just my selections out Force." The Army provided tanks telephone numbers. This they do take a toehold of herself, reduce, into mock combat for "Sands of Iwo Jima." The Air Force gave the makers of "Twelve O'Clock High" reels of film showing

bombers in action.

Hollywood was quicker on the trigger after this war than it was She cited a party she recently after World War I. "The Four notables. The other guests were the scren in 1921, then fighting kicking around Laurence Olivier's films were gorgotten until 1925 a five-year cycle. The unforget-A well-known wit cracked, "Un- tables of that era were "What ortunately, tonight you are en- Price Glory?" "Rookies," one of the few war comedies; "All Quiet on the Western Front" and "Hell's

half-baked wit with second-class Thus far the only comedy film musical talent, you're darn right since the second war is "Francis," I'm entitled to my opinion." she an unlikely tale of a talking mule

The films Hollywood is making now are of a different stripe than houses just once," she commented wartime dramas such as "Wake on the incident. "Guadalcanal Diary." The actress admitted that her "Purple Heart," "They Were Exown career doesn't appear destined pendable" and "The Story of G. I. Joe." These were enlistment posters which also served to spur the war effort. Their stock in trade was heroics.

The new crop is often critical of brass, politicians, red tape and inefficiency. G. I.'s aren't always heroes. The films are realistic and sometimes terrifying.

For better or worse the war film cycle is here. It will last as long as the public can take it.

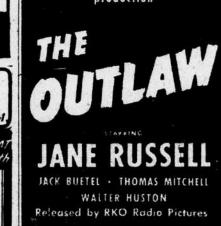
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FINALLY, at last, after a 3 year delay,

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Wishes Vou A Happy New Year! Doors Open 12:30 Noon

Stars Should Be Happy If Wishes Come True

Being a List of Some of the Things That Would Brighten the New Year

By Sheilah Graham

HOLLYWOOD. , Which makes it difficult for me My new year "wishes" for the to check on their fights with stars: For Robert Mitchum, the Universal - International, which payment of all his debts. Last happen on an average of once a time I talked with Bob he told me week.

he wouldn't see financial daylight for Shirley Temple? Not too for two more years . . . To Lucille many dates, or too many romances Ball, a baby, adopted or other- for 1950. She is 21-"a bit soured wise. Lucille is all for adopting on matrimony." A bit apprehenan infant. Husband Desi Arnaz sive of the future. But to millions is adamant about waiting to have all over the world, she is still one of their own.

For Joan, Marriage.

tion with her husband, Bill Dozier. My wish for Bette Davis is a Because that, in spite of her too- new set of ideas and new advisers vehement denials, is what she for her movies. Whoever told her madly wants. . . . To sister Olivia to wear that black wig in "Bede Havilland-another Oscar- yond the Forest" is beyond everyfor "The Heiress." And another thing.

baby. Livvy is currently obsessed Betty Grable-More musicals that show her legs. That is what War films, considered death at babies to bless his present mar- inal to hide the stems in long

the late carnage were still fresh, Russell—an even career balance.

Russell—an even career balance.

For two years Roz made very

Jean Arthur's ex, Frank Ross. If After World War II movie mo-dramatic movies. Now she is going nothing goes wrong, this is schedafter World war II movie intogeness and state world war II movie intogeness and state dramas, predicting it would be 10 years before the public would accept them. Soldier and civilian, they figured, would need for Lana Turner and Bob spend together, so they can see the public of the public of the public of the Tyrone Powers, a baby. Dittogeness the nightmares of the public of t a decade to forget the nightmares Topping. Both Linda and Lana something of each other. . . . lost expected babies during 1949. Clark Gable?—Another "Gone With the Wind"—and another For Fred MacMurray, good Carole Lombard. . . . And we all

> For Ronald Coleman—Perpetual youth. Ronnie is 60 years old. with Diana. It seemed okay, But who else can match that

> > Pidgeon? Deanna Durbin doesn't seem to and come back to pictures, to

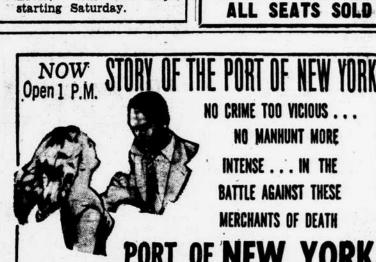
For Yvonne de Carlo-A man she can marry. And Ed Luckenbach seems to fit the bill. . . Bob Hope-A settlement of his present contract battles with Paramount. . . . To Wanda Hendrix and Audie Murphy-a cure for the nervous tummy that leads to ulcers. . . . Frank Sinatra, for him my wish is that he can overtake his big income-tax payments. What's the use of earning all that

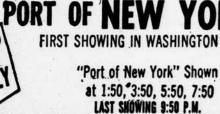
money, unless you can save. For myself-Another visit to "South Pacific." (Released by North American Newspaper Alliance.)

-Tomorrow at 3 P.M. THE BALLET HANSEL and GRETEL

CONSTITUTION HALL-Wash. School of the Ballet With The National Symphony HOWARD MITCHELL, Conductor

Monday, Jan. 2, 3 P.M.





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